

INFORMATION REPORT

~~SECRET~~
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COUNTRY **Yugoslavia**
SUBJECT **Yugoslav Army for the Defense
Of the Regime (AOP)**

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. **28 Mar 1949**

NO. OF PAGES **1**

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The "Third Battalions" of regiments in the Yugoslav Army are being reorganized as elite units composed of hand-picked troops and officers of proven loyalty to Tito. The object of this is to provide a "reserve" mobile striking force to combat acts of sabotage and subversive activities by pro-Cominform elements.
2. The reserve force formed from these battalions, which numbers approximately 80,000 men, is called the Armija za Odbranu Poretka - Army for the Defense of the Regime (AOP).
3. A special AOP headquarters has been set up at GHQ in Belgrade, which, in an emergency, will have independent operational control over these battalions, and will be able to dispatch them to any danger area to suppress armed bands or reinforce ordinary troops. In such cases of serious disturbances the Commander of an AOP battalion may be called upon to take over military control of any troubled area. In such instances he will operate independently of the regiment to which he is attached for normal duties and will be under the direct orders of AOP headquarters in Belgrade.

Document No. **009**
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS
Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Date: **10 MAY 1978**
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

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